

PRISONS.

A man who writes under the name of "Donald Lowrie" has recently issued a book telling us his experiences in San Quentin prison, Cal., a place made rather notorious as the enforced residence of Abe Reuf and the McNamaras.

We believe the book should be placed in the hands of every state legislator and every state prison commissioner. Packed to the brim with facts, with no false whine for pity, but often with the saving sense of humor, it nevertheless constitutes a tremendous indictment of our prison systems and our so-called civilization.

Penologists say prisons are maintained in order that men who commit offenses against society may be made to see the error of their ways and come out of durance as future good members of society. As a matter of fact, most of our present prisons make beasts of the prisoners and brutalize the keepers. They are poisonous in every way.

So long as we lock men in narrow cells with practically no ventilation and little cleanliness, so long as we force them to eat food under conditions that are disgusting, so long as we permit punishments that are savage, our boasted twentieth century is not very far in advance of the tortures and prisons of the middle ages which we so love to call "dark."

The very beasts in the menageries are treated better than most inmates of state prisons. We will begin to make men of offenders against the law only when we be-

DENSE DUNDERHEAD! SEE VOT YOU HAF DIT! YOU HAF BLANDET DER MELONS BY DER COOCUMBERS UND NOW DEY ALL TASTE LIKE DILLPICKLES!



gin to treat them as men. If we continue to treat them as savage beasts they will continue to issue from the grim walls of our penitentiaries with a raging desire to avenge themselves upon a society which has taught them only the hostile spirit of the law's vengeance.

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 "What is your husband's favorite fiction?"

"He's about equally smitten with the 'invalid-friend story' and the 'detained-at-the-office-on-business' narrative."

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 Parties desiring signatures for Taft's withdrawal petition should not overlook that meeting set for Chicago, Aug. 5.